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Docket No.: W1878.0240
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Satoshi Yamakawa et al.

Application No.: 10/599,047

Confirmation No.: 3470

Filed: September 18, 2006

Art Unit: N/A

For: INTERMEDIATE DEVICE WHICH CAN
BE INTRODUCED AND REMOVED IN
SEAMLESS WAY

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

MS PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Timing of Filing of the Information Disclosure Statement:

This IDS is being filed before the First Office Action¹.

¹ The IDS should, where possible, include a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).

- This IDS is being filed after the issuance of the First Office Action but before the issuance of a Final Office Action².
- This IDS is being filed after the issuance of a Final Office Action, Ex Parte Quayle Action or Notice of Allowance but before the payment of the Issue Fee³.

Certifications:

If checked, the undersigned makes the following statement(s):

- Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement; or

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

² The IDS *must* include either a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

³ The IDS *must* include both a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application less than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Fee Required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) or 1.97(d)(2): If checked, the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is attached.**Copies of Information:**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a), the following are enclosed:

- A legible copy⁴ of each document (or relevant portion thereof) cited in the attached PTO/SB/08, except for U.S. patent and U.S. published applications.
- With respect to any information which is not in English, a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, is attached.
This concise explanation is provided by way of:

- A translation of the relevant portions of the non-English language information⁵;

⁴ A legible copy of the document is not required if (1) the information was previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office and considered by the Office in a prior U.S. application to which this application claims priority, provided that the prior application is properly identified in this IDS, and (2) the IDS submitted in the earlier application complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) – (c). This exception does not apply to information cited in an International Application.

⁵ 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(ii) requires that an English language translation be provided when a translation of the document, or portion thereof, "is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)."

- A statement explaining the relevant portions of the non-English language information;
- A copy [and, where not in the English language, a translation] of at least the relevant portion(s)⁶ of the communication from the International Search Report in which the information was cited; or
- This information is contained in the specification of the present application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), copies of the cited documents are not enclosed as they were provided in application Serial No. , filed , which the present application relies upon for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

Materiality:

Whether or not the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement is "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

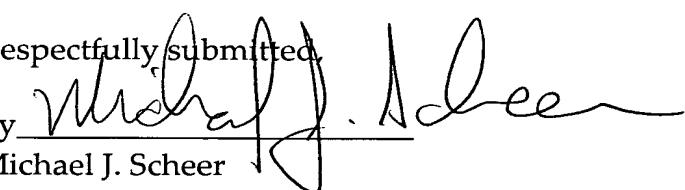
⁶ The relevant portion is that portion which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. This may be an explanation of which portion of the reference is particularly relevant, to which claims it applies, or merely an "X", "Y", or "A" indication on a search report. MPEP §609 III A(3).

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

In the event the actual fee is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

Dated: September 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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PTO/SB/08a/b (07-06)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/599,047-Conf. No. 3470
				Filing Date	September 18, 2006
				First Named Inventor	Satoshi Yamakawa
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	W1878.0240

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
BA	JP-2002-176432 (w/ English abstract)	06-21-2002	Sony Corp		T ⁶
BB	JP-2002-344495 (w/ English abstract)	11-29-2002	Mitsubishi Electric Corp		
BC	JP-2003-203029 (w/ English abstract)	07-18-2003	NEC Corp		
BD	JP-06-326724 (w/ English abstract)	11-25-1994	Nippon Teleg & Teleph Corp (NTT)		
BE	JP-2000-132479 (w/ English abstract)	05-12-2000	Hitachi Ltd		
BF	JP-2003-036243 (w/ English abstract)	02-07-2003	KDDI Corp		
BG	JP-2003-087330 (w/ English abstract)	03-20-2003	Naoki Aoyama		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ²
CA		WATARU KATSURASHIMA, ET AL., "NAS Switch: A Novel CIFS Server Virtualization," Proceedings of 12th IEEE/11th NASA Goddard Conference on Mass Storage Systems & Technologies (April 2003), NEC Software Kyushu, Ltd.			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/016947

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ G06F13/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ G06F13/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1922-1996	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2004
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2004	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

JICST FILE [(CHUKAN SOCHI+CHUKAN SABA+CHUKEISABA)
 * [SHINKIDONYU+SHINKIFUKA+ARATANI]] (in Japanese)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2000-132479 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 12 May, 2000 (12.05.00), Page 2, column 1, lines 2 to 19; Fig. 1 (Family: none)	1-31
A	JP 2003-036243 A (KDDI Corp.), 07 February, 2003 (07.02.03), Page 2, column 1, line 2 to column 2, line 1; Fig. 6 (Family: none)	1-31
A	JP 2003-087330 A (Naoki AOYAMA), 20 March, 2003 (20.03.03), Page 2, column 1, lines 21 to 29 (Family: none)	1-31

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 10 February, 2005 (10.02.05)	Date of mailing of the international search report 01 March, 2005 (01.03.05)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office	Authorized officer
Faxsimile No.	Telephone No.